



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: CHITIN Project - PolyPrime Trial

THEME:

Health & Social Care

FUNDING(ERDF+MATCH)

€8,841,667.25

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department of Health
Northern Ireland

Department of Health
Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Public Health Agency,
Northern Ireland

PROJECT PARTNERS

Health Research Board,
Ireland

PROJECT CONTACT:

Rhonda.Campbell@hscni.net

Start Date: 01/09/2016

End Date: 30/06/2022



[https://
research.hscni.net/chitin](https://research.hscni.net/chitin)



@CHITINProject

The Cross-border Healthcare Intervention Trials In Ireland Network (CHITIN) is a unique partnership between the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland and the Health Research Board in Ireland, who are working together to deliver 11 Healthcare Intervention Trials (HITs). The HITs will help prevent and cure illness and promote improved health and well-being. The PolyPrime project is just one of such interventions: a three-phase project, building upon previous research conducted in Northern Ireland, to help develop a new approach to improve the use of multiple medicines in older people in cross-border general practices.

Led by Queen's University Belfast the trial is being delivered through partners: Trinity College Dublin; the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland; the National University of Ireland Galway; the Northern Ireland Clinical Trials Unit; and the Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network (NICRN – Primary Care).

Phase 1 of the project was completed in April 2019, with researchers having undertaken interviews with GPs across the six border counties of Ireland. Based on this research some changes were made to the existing intervention package including the addition of educational slides highlighting the key issues which GPs should consider when conducting medication reviews. The research team is currently recruiting GP practices and older patients (those aged 70 years and older and receiving four or more medicines) to participate in a small pilot study (Phase 2).



Figure 1: Defined area for the CHITIN Health Intervention Trials (HITs)

“PolyPrime is an example of a new approach to ensure that older people get the medicines that they need. It has been developed from scratch, with input from patients and health care professionals, and a range of different academic disciplines. We now have the opportunity to test it further across two different health systems in Northern Ireland and Ireland. We hope that the study will provide interesting findings and help to decide if we need to proceed to a larger study to confirm that the new approach is effective and cost-effective.”

Professor Carmel Hughes, Project Lead, School of Pharmacy, Queen's University Belfast